

Newsletter – November 2017

LMC Meeting 13th November 2017

At our last LMC meeting we discussed a range of issues, including A&E resourcing and extra bed capacity in the community, a proposal to create an 'Access LES' to replace the DES, drug administration cards and ordering of blood tests by district nurses.

Rotherham Health Record – Information Sharing Agreement

There is a proposal that Information between RMBC, RDaSH, GPs and TRFT will be shared under a Rotherham-wide agreement. Opt-in by patients would be automatic unless they specifically opted out.

The document places the onus very much on the GP Practice to inform patients effectively, and refers to exclusion of patient information of a highly sensitive nature. It is not clear who decides and monitors this, and what are the consequences of mistakes.

As such, the LMC has serious reservations about this process and unless they are resolved we advise GP Practices to think very carefully before signing this.

Updated Guidance – request for medical records from the police.

There is an updated pro forma for practices that receive requests for medical records from the police. The original pro forma was distributed in June 2017.

Following discussions with the NPCC (National Police Chief's Council) regarding signing off the BMA have agreed that the level of police seniority that they recommend to GPs to obtain before considering releasing medical records to the police is lowered from Superintendent to Inspector. They have restated to the NPCC the need for any request from the police for medical records is only made when absolutely necessary.

Please note that this is the only change to the guidance that has been made.

<http://www.rotherhamlmc.org/page1.aspx?p=15&t=1>

2016 Junior Doctor Contract

Additional guidance has been posted on the BMA website to support GP Trainees and GP Practices with understanding the new 2016 junior doctor contract, which can be found here:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/gps-and-staff/guidance-for-gp-practices-on-the-2016-junior-doctors-contract>

In addition to previous guidance, example work templates have been uploaded that incorporates OOH working, a practice FAQ and a document comparing the new 2016 contract with the previous 2002 one.

Primary and secondary care interface – New Patient Leaflet

The GPC have led the development of a new patient leaflet which explains to patients what they can expect to happen if they are referred by their GP to see a specialist or consultant at a hospital or a community health centre. You can access this leaflet from the BMA patient information page here.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpvf/workload/interface/resources/#leaflet>

Indemnity & MDU announcement

The government has pledged to roll out a state backed clinical negligence indemnity scheme for general practice in England. This move came after months of sustained lobbying by the BMA's GP committee and calls from GPs

across the country for government to recognise the scale of rapidly increasing indemnity costs over the last few years ((50% between 2010 and 2016).

Following the DH announcement, MDU advised that its membership benefits for GPs working under an NHS England contract who renew/join after 1st Nov will change to 'Transitional Benefits' intended to provide the indemnity until a state-backed scheme is introduced.

With the above information in mind, we would like to remind GPs of the requirement to maintain full indemnity cover before any change to a state-backed scheme in the future.

More info available here:-

<http://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2017/10/16/richard-vautreya-a-state-backed-indemnity-scheme-for-gps-fixing-a-broken-system/>

https://www.bma.org.uk/connecting-doctors/the_practice/b/weblog/posts/indemnity-your-questions-answered

Letter to Simon Stevens about PCSE failures

The BMA has written to Simon Stevens to highlight the continued failure of PCSE, run by Capita and commissioned by NHS England. The letter was based on the valuable feedback from LMCs. It led to a front page story in The Guardian which in turn led to support from Norman Lamb MP:

You can find links here:-

<http://bma-mail.org.uk/JVX-59OCL-6B36IQY55B/cr.aspx>

Antimicrobial Resistance

The BMA's Science and Public Health team and International team have published new web content on Antimicrobial resistance, relating to an ARM resolution on the topic from this year, which is available on the BMA website here:-

https://www.bma.org.uk/connecting-doctors/the_practice/b/weblog/posts/the-challenges-of-antimicrobial-prescribing-in-primary-care

BMA Winter Pressures and Wellbeing Campaign

The BMA launched a campaign recently to highlight the importance of looking after yourself while working under winter pressures.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/work-life-support/your-wellbeing/give-yourself-the-gift-of-five-minutes>

The Family Doctor Association

GPs working at smaller or single-handed practices may be interested in learning more about this association, and maybe joining the cause.

Further details at:-

<http://www.family-doctor.org.uk/>

LMC Meeting

GP constituents are reminded that they are always welcome to attend meetings of the LMC as observers. The Committee meets on the second Monday of every month in the Board Room at Rotherham General Hospital

NEXT
LMC MEETING

11th December 2017

COMMENCING
At 7.30 PM

OFFICERS OF THE LMC

Chairman
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If you have any questions or agenda items, or wish to submit appropriate articles for this newsletter

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